DRAGON EYE

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KAIRI FUJIYAMA

Hello, it's me, Fujiyama.
This is the story of a boy
with an eye in the middle
of his forehead and
sundry other folk.
Let's go explore them
together.

Honorifics

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many translations into English leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the "feel" of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: **This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.**

-sama: **This is one level higher than "-san." It is used to confer great respect.**

-dono: **This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.**

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

= Dragon Eye =

Fujiyama Kairi

竜の眼

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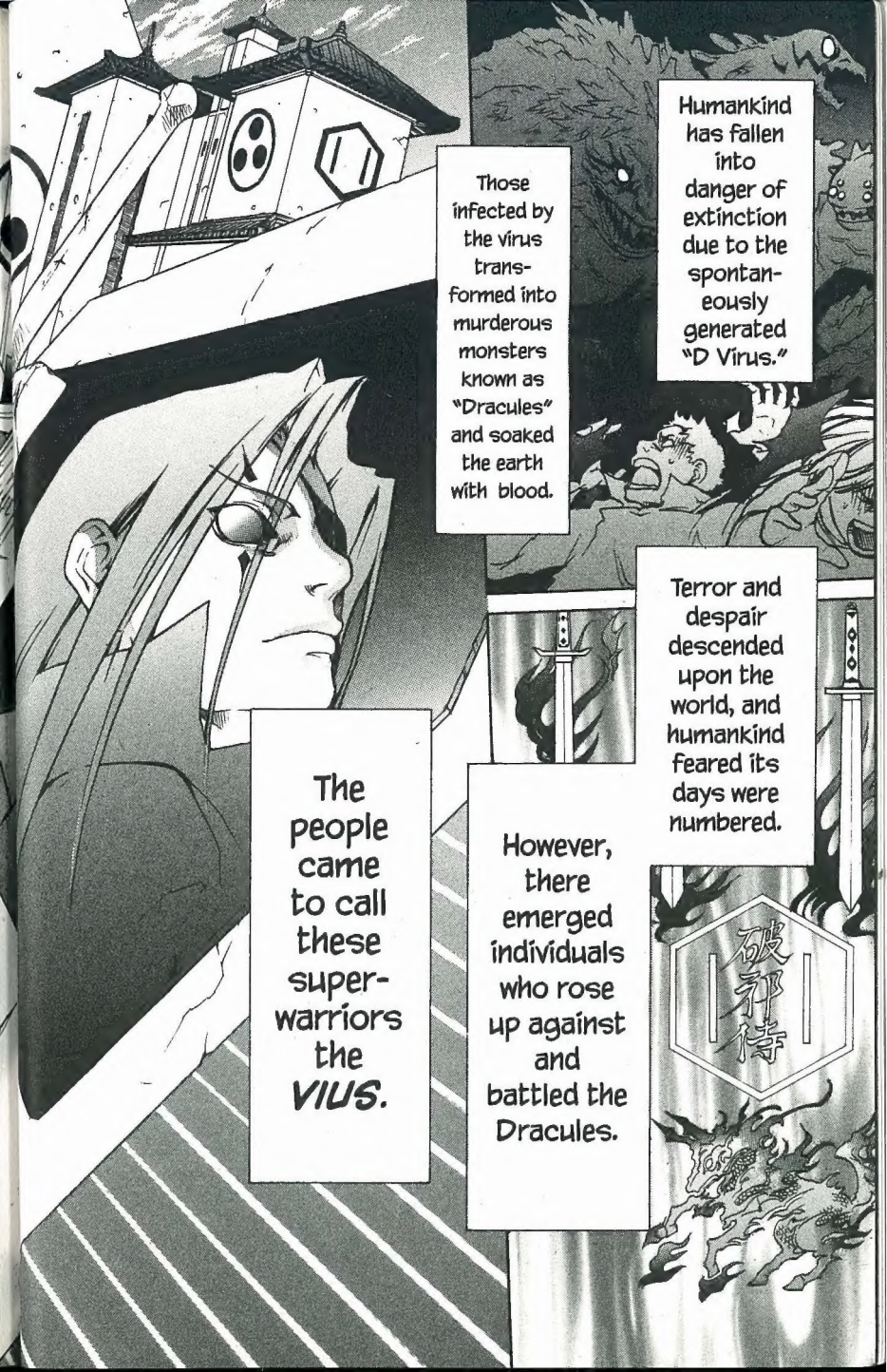
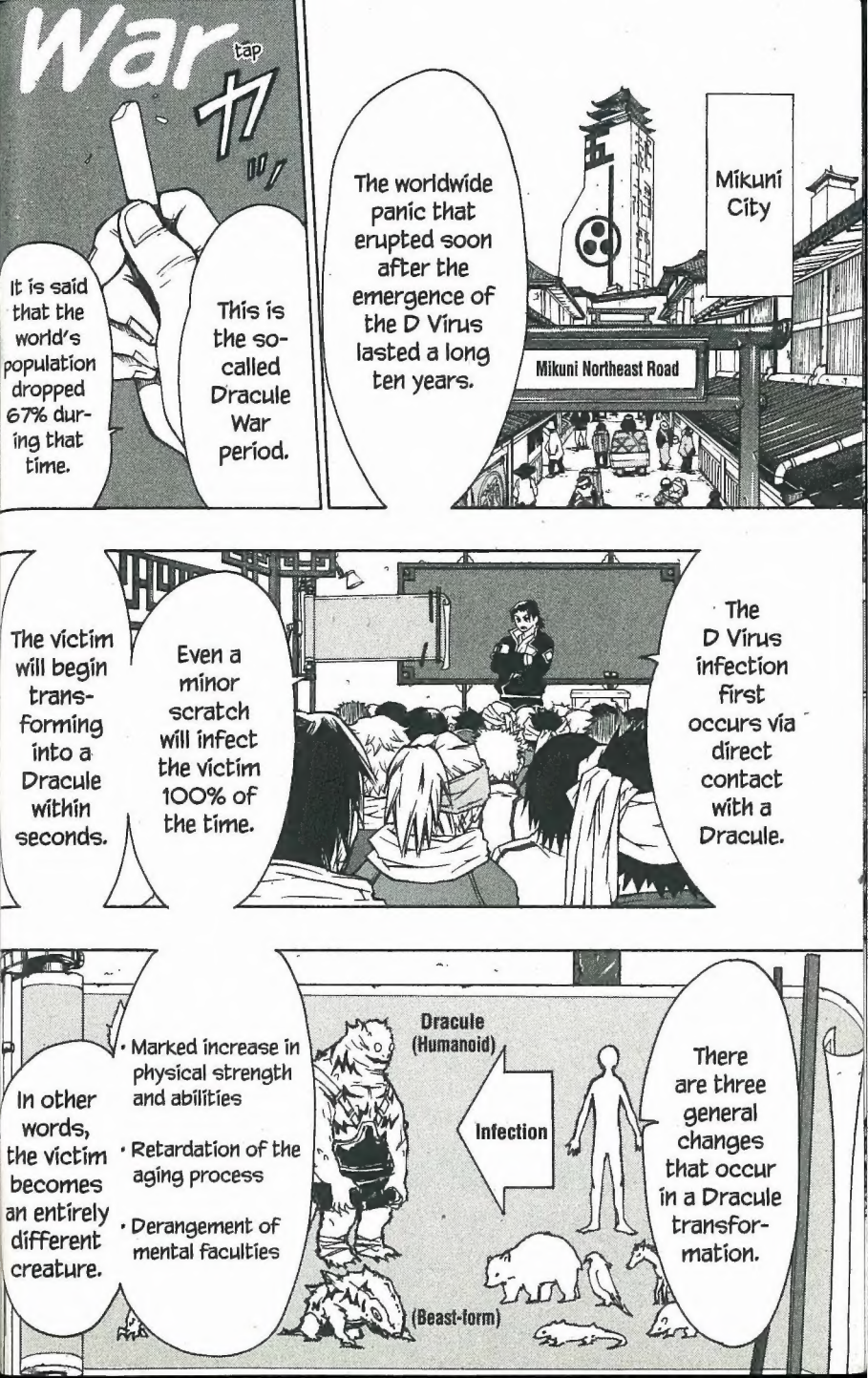
It can't be helped. The fire will cleanse all. Let's go!
This city's done for!!
The rest have all been infected!!
blaze
Waah!
Run!
Rrrr- oar!
rip
rip
rip
What's the mat- ter!?
!
u... unh.
Snarl
Kill him! We've got to kill him!!
It's no use! He's transformed into a Dracule already!
He's been infected by the virus too!!
Waaah!


Humankind has fallen into danger of extinction due to the spontaneously generated "D Virus."
Those infected by the virus transformed into murderous monsters known as "Dracules" and soaked the earth with blood.
Terror and despair descended upon the world, and humankind feared its days were numbered.
However, there emerged individuals who rose up against and battled the Dracules.
The people came to call these superwarriors the VIUS.
破邪侍

Mission One

The Man with the Dragon Eye


War
tap
It is said that the world's population dropped 67% during that time.
This is the so-called Dracule War period.
The worldwide panic that erupted soon after the emergence of the D Virus lasted a long ten years.
Mikuni City
Mikuni Northeast Road
The victim will begin transforming into a Dracule within seconds.
Even a minor scratch will infect the victim 100% of the time.
The D Virus infection first occurs via direct contact with a Dracule.
In other words, the victim becomes an entirely different creature.
• Marked increase in physical strength and abilities
• Retardation of the aging process
• Derangement of mental faculties
Dracule (Humanoid)
Infection
(Beast-form)
There are three general changes that occur in a Dracule transformation.

There is only one way to save those who have become infected.
It is *to destroy them.*
However, a small number of individuals, "super-antibody carriers," naturally possess particularly strong antibodies and thus escape infection 99% of the time.
You all are such.
And so, about 40 years ago, an anti-Dracule civil organization that used innovative techniques incorporating sorcery and martial arts arose.
Mikuni VIUS
Enlistment Examination
Composed of super-antibody carrier warriors and dedicated to Dracule annihilation, this civil organization became known as...
VIUS War
the VIUS ("Epidemic-Preventing City System")
That's us.
rap
Today's final test will sort out the true VIUS from among you.

You must not be found lacking in any of these three!
The tenets of the VIUS are as follows:
Protect the populace!
Protect oneself!
Destroy all Dracules!
I see... For certain, there will be those among you whose *family* or *companions* will become infected in the future.
What about those among the populace who say we need to regard Dracules as former humans and consider options other than just annihilation?
Proctor!
What is it?
You mean... show mercy toward the Dracules?
Er, no... I meant, maybe there'll be times when other methods might be necessary...?
I lost this arm to *my partner of four years* during a battle.
I was trying to save my *infected* partner, running with him on my back, when he got me from behind and sliced it off.
It happened three hours post-infection.

That is the one and only way to save the unfortunately infected, and it is *our job*.
Just think of it as the person having died the moment he or she became infected.
Listen closely! There is *no* other way!
shudder...
No one will blame you.
I can do it!
Those of you who will be unable to do it should leave now.
Ho, nice energy. You're number 41, Leila Mikami, right?
What about the rest of you?
No matter who it used to be, if it's a Dracule, I will destroy it without hesitation.

mutter
So mitsu-gestic-
Don't forget those words.
Can do!
I can do it!
Me too.
irk
Oh, me too?
Well, I guess that's what you'd hope for, especially in the beginning...
woosh
blast
ROAR
Like with light battle scenes.
You know, you're usually supposed to start out at the practice-rounds level, eh?
No, no, it's this game character: he's so go-get'em from the get-go.
What you said just now, you were saying to me, right!
Eh? Oh.
What do you mean by that!?
Huh?

...And what the heck are you doing, in the middle of the test explanation—!!!
Hey, you, This is hard!
BLAST BLAST
WHOOSH
YOWL
...Uh, okay.
What is up with this kid?... He looks younger than me.
Huh?
In any case, in addition to whether you pass or fail, your results today...
will determine your squad assignments as well.
Hey...
You there! Pay attention!
Admittance into the popular "Squad One" awaits those with top marks.
Yeah!
However... those with low marks
and those who are disagreeable to me
doom
will be handed over to the infamously harsh "Squad Zero," so prepare yourselves.
Squad Zero is known for the so-called Three D's: Dangerous, Difficult, and its captain is Detested~~ it's tough, ha ha ha.
You all better work hard.

Mikuni Vius
Proctor-
Gulp

I heard that Squad One's captain, on his first mission, slipped and fell, lost consciousness,
and was demoted to *reserve personnel* for a time, but is it true?
If so, I feel like I've actually got a chance.
ha ha.

Squad One Captain
Aah... I've *NEVER* heard such a thing.
You know, if you have the time to be distracted by rumors and such...
rrumble

clunk
あんぐり
gape
Hey, you— quit fanning his flames, will ya—!!!
Really—?
blaze
I see this year's candidates are pretty confident.
Can't wait to grade your papers!
—Now then, let's get going with the final examination.
mooooan
We have received reports that Level 5 Dracules are lurking around the ruins in Area B.
Your mission is to eradicate all of the Dracules within, head to the designated points, set up the Shield Cores, and engage the barrier.
Each pair of you will receive one Shield Core.
If one of you drops out in the middle, both partners will be failed, so keep that in mind.
Level 5 Dracules are in beast form and *very weak*, but don't let your guard down!

Well then, I wish you all a successful mission.
Hey, you all! Just letting you know, this is the third time I'm taking this exam! I'm going to get in this year, no matter what!
So even if one of you gets attacked right in front of me...
I'm not going to help you out, all right?
Sure, no problem.
Losers should voluntarily retire, I say, ha ha ha!

Yawn~
Why does he have to be my partner~~
just my luck!
scratch scratch
Let me tell you, I'm not going to let you drop out. I am not postponing this another year!!
What are you talking about? Of course! You know, I'm famous as the man who listens to others' tales 130%.
But you were playing video games full throttle earlier!
Eh?
Hey, you! You do understand the details of the exam, right?
Why do you think I struggled through this tough exam, huh?
Isn't that what you're here for too!?
Oh, yeah, right.
I'm Leila!
Ah, I'm Issa, nice to meet ya!
That's not what I meant!
scratch scratch
Huh... you really want this job, eh...
You're an odd one.

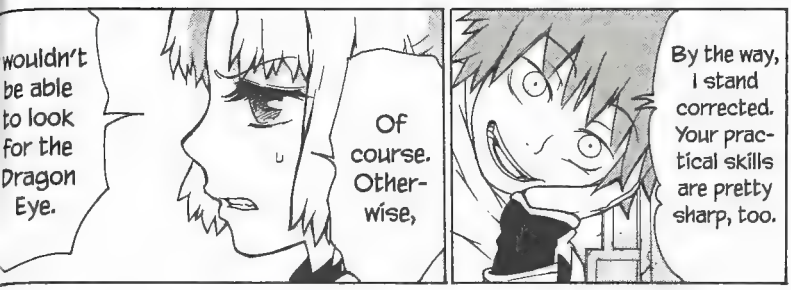
I... I'm not choosing this job for the money!
How dare you...
What I meant is that I thought you'd apply for one of the much better paying gigs over at HQ...
instead of trying to stick it out here on the dangerous front lines.
※ bingo
I mean, you look like the type who gets top score on the written test.
Then why?
Huh? Hey.
...It's none of your business.
I... I...
flinch

Over here!!
Why was I about to spill it...and to him, of all people?
Dracules
Headed your way!!
SWOOP
SWOOP
slash
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
Two each! Piece of cake.
click click

Yes!
fizzle
blast
Yowl
slice
hurtle
hurtle
There are others! Watch out!
slash
slash
Shoot...

fizzle
Gyaaaa
Simian F types move in packs and favor attacking from above.
It's rudimentary.
.....!!!

Whoa–!! That was so cool–!
clap
ぱち
clap
ぱち
clap
ぱち
clap
ぱち
Slump
Hey! Would you mind helping out a bit!
Nah, I'm not the go-getter type...
Just don't mind me.
You will too! We're supposed to be a team, so don't be a burden!


By the way, I stand corrected. Your practical skills are pretty sharp, too.
Of course. Otherwise,
wouldn't be able to look for the Dragon Eye.

Eh?
N... Nothing!
Feh, she's pretty good.
We can't fool around. Gotta earn our own points.
sniff...
I smell 'em...
Huh? Smell what?
Me?

jingle...
チリン...
scamper...
タタタ...
Oh, hey!
!!
A...a child!
I thought they had evacuated all the plebes!!?
Papa, Mama!!!
Hurry, chase after her! Securing citizen safety: we're there!
Wait!
whirl
Leila!

Waaaah!!!
buckle...
shift
Darn...I've got a bad feeling about this!!
What to do!?
clatter
clatter
clatter
Hey!
Leila!

Feh, it can't be helped.
ぴょん leap
Umnh...I wanna go home.
doom
What do you mean, it's a trap!!?
slam
According to intelligence, the Dracules have laid a trap, taking advantage of today's VIUS enlistment examination!
They probably mean to nip the enemy early while they're still budding shoots.
Then...
I cannot establish contact with the candidates! They're in an area where radio waves are cut off!
...Darn it!
The actual Dracules are *Level 3 humanoids!!*
The Level 5 Dracules on scene are just *decoys!!*

...Oww...
It can't be helped. Our only hope is to rely on him.
Look how far we've fallen...
I didn't think the floor would give out.
Darn it, my comm unit's not working!
Please...
blaaaaze
...Papa!
Mama!

blur...
HAA
HAA
to the same place.
But don't worry, you'll be able to go soon too,
"cackle
It's use-less, little girl... they're all dead!
sunder
He has a golden...
eye...
blaaaze

Hey.
You alive–?
sit up
Yo!
Wh... Where am I?
Oh, right, that little girl!!
When you all started chasing her, the floor gave way, and we fell through.
We need to search for a way out of here, or else we may all have to drop out.
No! I am not giving up!!
...Are you serious ~~?
ring...
These kinds of problems are routine for the VIUS! We're proceeding with the mission!
All right, all right, be my guest.
Besides, we've got to save that little girl!

Well, I am your partner, after all.
Er.
!
Don't tell me you voluntarily leapt in after us?
Did you... fall down here with the rest of us?
What?! I apologized, OK!!
...Omigod (she apologized) ~~~
...I... I'm sorry,
I'm being a burden.
!
Hey... Issa-kun?
Agreed.
Competition can always come later.
Hey, let's move around as a group until we find an exit, all right? It's article 42 of the "Rules Governing Unforeseen Circumstances."

Have you ever heard of... the Dragon Eye?
...Dragon Eye,
the "eye" of a draconic Dracule, said to be the highest-level form among all Dracules.
You know about it!?
It shines like gold and contains tremendous power.
It is said you can become invincible if it is "transplanted" into you.
However, it is also said that very few have even laid eyes on one.
'Cause it's nearly impossible to obtain a supposedly invincible draconic Dracule's eye, you know.
It's pretty much the stuff of legends.
!
My true parents were killed when I was five...by Dracules.
But I've seen one once.

And inside the inferno... they were laughing in front of me, the last remaining survivor.
No one could stand up to them...
All of the adults were slaughtered...
You're a Dracule orphan.

That's when *he* appeared.
I was... in despair.
No one would be coming to rescue me, and no one was a match for them anyway.

I swear, that was a Dragon Eye.
Inside the inferno, it was flickering gold.
His eye was overflowing with seemingly inhuman power.
And when he turned towards me...
In an instant, he cut down close to ten Dracules.

I decided to become a VIUS so that I could search for Dragon Eyes!
If I could get a Dragon Eye, I could protect people and defeat Dracules.
You want to be a VIUS to go treasure hunting!?
You really *are* an odd one.
Sh...shut up! Leave me alone.
You could never understand...!!
If you get ahold of one...
are you really planning to get a transplant?
Of course...

It's that little girl!!
jingle
!
We're VIUS. It's dangerous here.
Come!
It's all right, come leave with us, dear.
Wait!
Hold up!
That girl isn't human!!
wait...
loom

blast
Waaah!
Ugh!
klink
klink
shield
!
Aaaargh!
slash
Unh!

Pam
Gah!
U...
Unnh...
Hack
Pause
Welcome, VIUS rookies!
I can't believe so many young prey...um, guests... have gathered for my banquet... It's beyond my wildest dreams... heh heh heh.
I don't remember being invited to any such thing.
the Banquet of Death that is about to begin...!
Please enjoy

That's... the armband of an exam proctor!?
kachink
kachink
kachink
flick
Due to the appearance of *Level 3* Dracules, I hereby claim command as of this moment.
I'm a Mikuni VIUS enlistment exam inspector!
Everyone, quickly, hug the walls!!
stand

Y... yes, sir!
Hurry up!
Those who are mobile, assist the injured!
An undercover proctor-!!?
A...
Ho...so it's you. We had received intelligence that there would be an undercover proctor, but...
that it would be a kid?
Mikuni must be hurting for personnel, indeed... heh heh heh.
Why don't we fight, so you can see for yourself if we're hurting or not?
Issa-kun...!
crack
コキ

swarm
Can you really play with all of us by yourself?
Aiee...
It was a trap!!!
An ambush...
!!
clash
spring

Hey, you all—! Think of this as a special field class...
strain
strain
strain
strain
and watch real close!!
kick
slide
bounce
smash
!
He did it!!!
clatter clatter...
Kill him!
launch

leap
leap
clang
Don't be so hasty!
swing
unleash

Ugh...!
slash
slash
slash
slash
Issa-kun!!
draw
!
slash

Unh...
No need to rush, girlie. We'll play with you all after we're done with the little guy.
clod
Wench!!
Aiee!
...I won't...
That's why we figured we would erase you all while you are still without strength.
Ha ha ha!
cackle
cackle
cackle
cackle
To us, the VIUS are like bothersome PARASITES.
Ho... you still have the spirit to glare at us?
She's a promising one, isn't she, kid?
I won't forgive you... You all treated Papa and Mama like trash back then, too...

Flinch
Dragon Eye?
One day... when I get ahold of a Dragon Eye...I'll kill you all...
Angry, girlie?
...I won't forgive you...I won't...!
...But you're amusing.
You're about to die here and now!
You're planning to obtain a Dragon Eye? ...Ha ha ha!!!
You can gain Dracule strength!
You may all be super-antibody carriers, but if you drink a large volume of such pure blood, you WILL become infected, and can obtain bodies like ours.
I was planning to slaughter all of you...but you— as an exception, I could consider making you one of us instead... heh heh heh heh...

At this rate, we're going to be annihilated... just like back then...
and become part of the world's invulnerable species!! Ha ha ha ha ha!
Well? If you become my subordinate, you can destroy humans...
That's right... If I'm going to die anyway... I might as well become a Dracule and turn the tables on them...
Then everyone else will be safe...!!!
I might be able to use that strength to wipe out at least these guys!
But... if I were to become a Dracule right now,
Heh
heh heh heh...
I want it...
Power...
And then... just before my human heart disappears... I'll kill myself.
Cackle cackle cackle cackle cackle!!!

Do you really mean that, Leila Mikami?
O...Of course! At this rate, we're all going to get killed!
But if I become a Dracule, I can gain strength!!
!
Are you sure you want to go there?
You're planning to become a Dracule...to defeat Dracules...?
But then what will you do afterward?
My, my... humans are such foolish yet amusing creatures!
What... you're going to become a Dracule for revenge?
I'll kill myself before I completely lose my heart!! If I'm going to die either way... I'd rather take them with me!!
So...is killing them your only goal?

tremble
Then... go ahead. Do it.
That day... when pa and Mama were killed...
quiver quiver
Even become a Dracule...!!
pitter patter...
And I thought I would do anything in order to make that happen!
I don't want to see people die in front of my eyes ever again...
If I had been strong then too, I could have saved everyone.

Feh... you're a girlie after all. Boring.
Papa... Mama... I'm sorry. I... I can't avenge you.
But... I...don't really want to become a Dracule...
I want to stay human...
You pass, Leila Mikami!
Enough die!!
rear
!?

cleave
!!
Issa-kun!
Peh
A first-rate VIUS doesn't go down so easily, you know.
Wh... what about your wounds...!!?
Aaaargh!
But a true VIUS must never undervalue her own life.
Leila... you said you would do anything to be able to defeat Dracules, eh?

A long time ago...there was a man who took a Dracule's power into his own body for a precious cause.
And the high price he had to pay for that accursed "power"...
reveal
Look closely and remember it well!
He's got spell tablets that seal away evil ailments all over his body...!?
crouch
Without these bindings, my power tends to run amok.

Raaare
but he survived to escape...
We had taken his older sister hostage in order to gain his cooperation...
Now I remember... Long ago there was a warrior who, although human, had been bought off and was working for a Dracule syndicate.
If I remember correctly, the name was...
The warrior who carries a Dragon Eye on his forehead.
I also recall that in order to rescue his older sister... he had obtained a Dragon Eye...

Issa Kazuma!!!
launch

Fizzzzzz
Just as I thought... it IS you.... Issa.
Cackle cackle cackle...!! Still searching for your sister after all these years, eh...
smolder
Tee hee hee... Maybe...
Ciara... you know Ciara!?
But never mind that, look at your body...!!
I wonder which will come first...
you finding your sister, or you finally becoming one of us...!!
wa-ha ha ha ha ha

Oh! Iy
Long ago, there was a *one-eyed* fellow who bequeathed his Dragon Eye to me.
...Issa-kun.
Eventually, all of the human cells get consumed.
Pulse
Pulse
Pulse
The power of the Dragon Eye eats away its host's body over time.
Just before that man transformed into a Dracule, he said the following to me:
for the ower of emons.
That's... the price one has to pay
you may have it.
If you still require this "power"

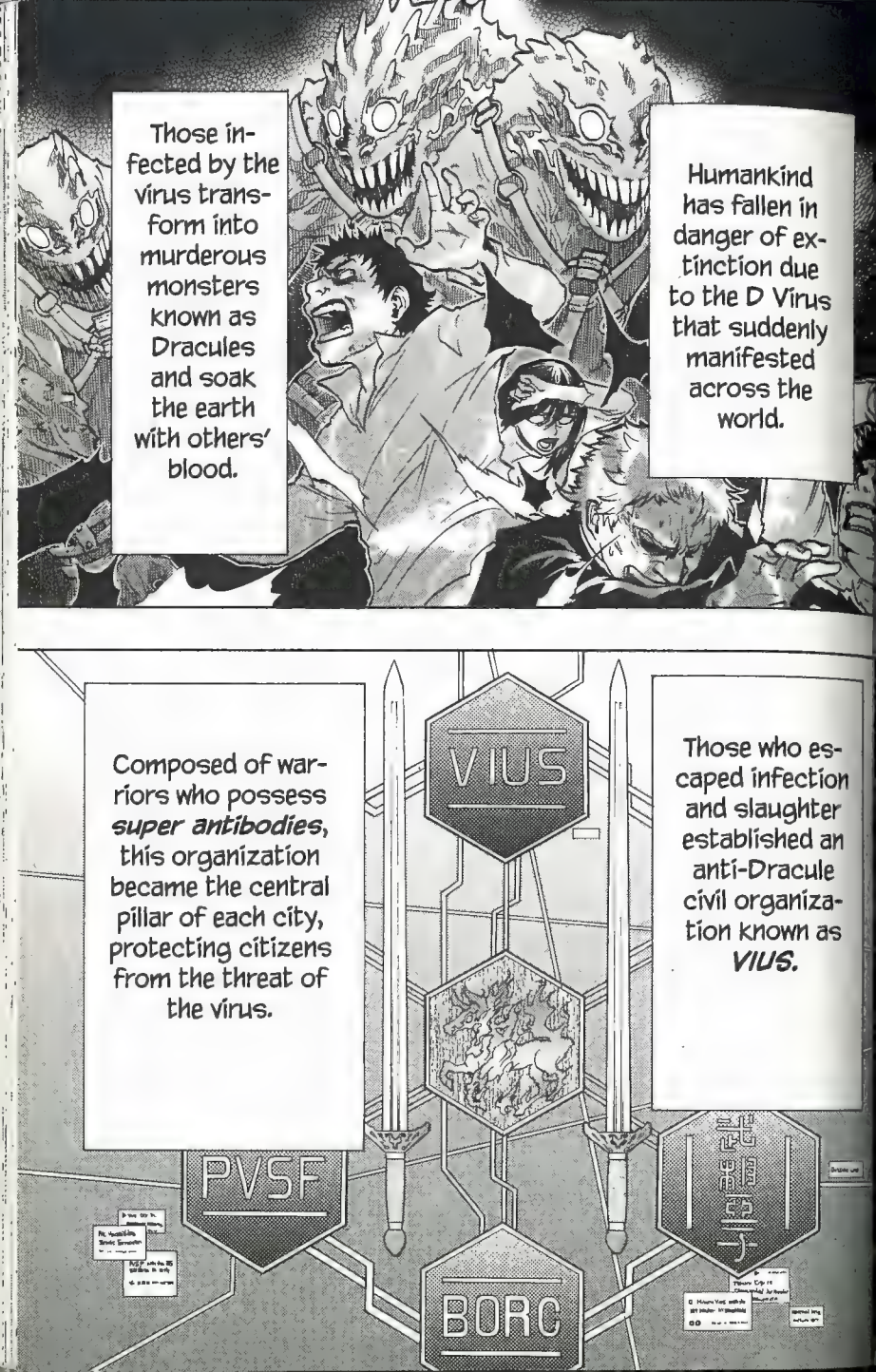
And even so, even at the cost of my own body,
there is something I must do.
So this is the path I have chosen.
Leila, if one day, not for vengeance,
but for some other important something,
you still require this "power"
I'll give you my eye.
narrow...

I still do...
Papa's and Mama's smiling faces.
What I used to... want to protect.
I want to protect everyone's smiling faces...!!
I want to fight!
Provisional Inspector Issa Kazuma!!
You're a fine VIUS already!

How could you not retreat when you *had realized* something was amiss!!?
Well, you know, I kinda just went with the flow... I mean, it looked like things would be fine with me alone,
and besides, it made for a quick feet-wetting for the recruits, eh? A-ha ha.
If you talk any louder, they'll hear every word outside.
If people had died, you would have faced the Allied Council!!
That's not your call!!
clomp
Sorry to keep you waiting.
Candidate Leila Mikami!
Y... yes, sir!
First, congratulations to all of you for making it this far.
I will now announce the assignments of those who have passed.

...Sheesh, he really does as he likes, year after year...
The squad captain apparently personally extended this offer, Mikami.
...You mean you're the captain of Squad Zero...?
Huh?
I hereby appoint you to my Squad Zero!
Leila Mikami! As an exceptional qualifier...
No way!!?
Welcome!!
Dangerous, Difficult, and it's members are all Distinguished— that's us!

Incident
Report


Those infected by the virus transform into murderous monsters known as Dracules and soak the earth with others' blood.
Humankind has fallen in danger of extinction due to the D Virus that suddenly manifested across the world.
Composed of warriors who possess *super antibodies*, this organization became the central pillar of each city, protecting citizens from the threat of the virus.
Those who escaped infection and slaughter established an anti-Dracule civil organization known as *VIUS*.
VIUS
PVSF
BORC

The place, VIUS city *Mikuni*.
The people called the superwarriors who battled *Dracules* day and night the *VIUS* as well.
Mikun

Mission Two
Squad Zero, Deployed

We have heard reports of your reckless conduct during yesterday's examination.
Not only did you not suspend the examination after perceiving danger, you actually led the candidates further into the hazard zone!
And then you revealed the Eye in front of them!!
What were you thinking, eh!!?
Squad Zero Captain Issa Kazuma!!
Pound
doom
Well...
I thought it would be fun for them.
F... Fun!!? And how were you going to take responsibility if something serious happened!!?
But... nothing did happen, eh?
And you ought to be grateful for that!
clod

Mmm...
If our internal data is being leaked, it is a grave matter...
However... the fact is that the content of the examination had become known to outsiders.
As chief proctor, I, too, take responsibility for this incident...
Crank
Our sincere apologies!!
Ow!
crack...
... Sheesh, you know the elder vice-director is right! I can only cover for you so much!!
You're already not in the council's good graces, so don't give them any more reason to hate you!!
Hey, I thought it was warranted.
Article 17 of your contract: "You may only reveal the Eye when absolutely necessary."
jab
Either way... Issa Kazuma!
Do not forget that you are under heavy restrictions in accordance with your special contract!!
You're so inconsiderate.
You...
grin
I know, but like they say, this didn't just start yesterday, eh?

flap
All right!
Today's my first face-to-face...and my first mission.
After that, I can truly call myself a VIUS warrior!
VIUS Squad Zero, huh...
"The Three D's: Dangerous, Difficult, and its captain is Detested." Not very flattering rumors.
When they first announced it as my assignment, I was a bit taken aback, but...

Squad Zero, those who trust in and follow him... I wonder what they're like!!
thump
thump
He might actually be an incredible person...
Its captain is Issa Kazuma...
Here's Squad Zero's Ready Room...
The kinda handwritten part worries me, but...
Squad Zero
Ready Room
Good morning!
Leila Mikami, reporting for duty!
clatter

clutter
!!?
a storage room...!?
a...and there's even a dog.
D...don't tell me this is... Or, rather, it is
Uh... This is the place, right?
Um...
Oh, Leila, morning.
I...Issa-kun... I mean, Captain!
jerk
mutter mutter
Oh, man, I hate having to see such a ghastly face first thing in the morning!

doom
Just as I feared.
It was a storage room, before.
Oh, this? Messy, ain't it.
WHAAAAAT!!!!
Well, best regards!
At the present time, Squad Zero is just you and me!!
Oh, yeah, about that.
S...so where are the other squad members?
is where they shuffle away the trouble-makers!?
Was my score that bad...!??
Woo-hoo, found some fish sausages! Nice!!
D...don't tell me this...
I wonder if there's some tea—
Don't worry, we'll get more.
Now, now, calm down.
What's going on?
Wh... wh... what do you mean, just the two of us!?
I thought a squad had to have a minimum of five members!?

Good morning!
But then... I wonder what happened to the previous Squad Zero members?
What an amazing room~
Whoa, what a mess...
They're members of other squads, but they're all experienced, so you can learn a lot from them.
Leila, I had put in a request for three helpers for today's mission.
Ahh! Cap'n, morning!
Yo! Come on in, come on in.

Oh, I'm Leila Mikami, nice to meet you!
bow
I'm Hibiki.
I'm Hyûga!
Wow, what a cute recruit. This reminds me of my first mission.
Then again, I don't have a lot of field experience... 'cause I'm assigned to the intelligence corps...
In terms of actual battles, I'm pretty much a newbie, too.
Intelligence corps, huh.
So who's the third...?
Did I miss the introductions?
There we are! We've got our deployment members.
!
Nice to meet you. I'm Zero Squad member
Leila Mikami!

Oh... no, no. I'm Sôsei Yukimura from Troop Chihiro, Squad Five.
Nice to meet you.
Um, is there something wrong?
.....?
.....
Eh? We've worked together before?
By the way, Captain Kazuma! Long time no see!
Do you remember me at all?
He doesn't remember it all.
Oh-- ohh.
...hmm?
Z'ok.
Well? Ya remember me nah!?
Uh... th-that's right! Back then, I hadda purdy thick accent!
Yes! Just once, but you joined us on my first mission!!

O...oh, OK. Man, I really feel embarrassed now.
I don't think so. I don't know anyone in the intelligence corps.
Hmm... You seem familiar, too.
Pant
Pant
Pant
Pant
By the way, so the members of Squad Zero are you, Captain, you, and...
Um... what's up with that dog over there?
Oh, him.
I found him. Don't concern yourself about him.
Oh, good, he's not a squad member.
Let's go over today's mission.
spread
Old City, District Four
Well then, it's still early, but,

We've received intelligence that Dracules are lairing in the underground area of District Four of the Old City.
According to confirmed reports, they're Level 5 Beast-Forms.
There aren't any plebs in that area, so it should be a relatively easy mission.
We'll enter through the Point Y-153 Underground entrance
and sweep northward, clearing Dracules along the way.
Underground Entrance
Once we locate their ringleader, we exterminate him/her,
and the mission will be complete after we set up the Shield Cores.
splish

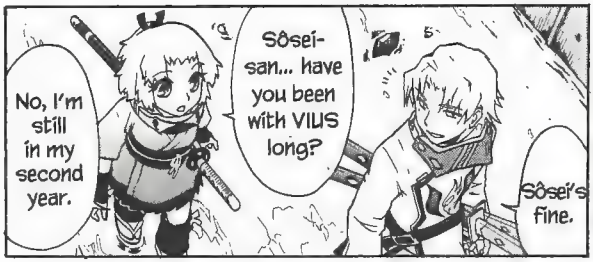
Whoa, what a fitting setting...
I didn't realize the Old City's underground area was this vast...
When the virus density rises, put on your masks, OK?
Leap
rustle...
It's the Dracule War that changed everything.
There were a lot more humans alive and living here long ago.
This is typical for the Underground.
!
We've got company!
Screech!
!!
Sh... shoot!
CLACK-
CLACK...
shick

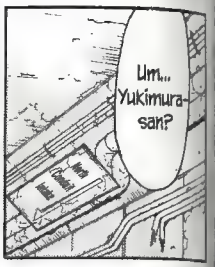
slice
斜
slash
斬
VIUS
CLACK
boom
You!
Y...yeah, thanks! It's been so long, I'd a case of the nerves!
Are you all right!?
Hi
FIZZZZZ
VIUS

VIUS
Yeah, it's a loaner from the engineering corps.
It's a weapon that even an amateur can master. Since real battles are out of my realm of expertise now.
...That's an impressive weapon.
fizzz
Screech!
VIUS
Wow... there's so much I still don't know.
So these kinds of weapons are being developed, huh.
Aieeeee!!
Another!
RUSTLE
boom

SWISH
SLICE
SPLIT
SHEATH
SLICE
He's good.
I... didn't hear him draw his blade at all.
Th... Thanks.
In the Underground, there are a variety of mutant creatures that have been infected by the virus, so, be careful.
I... it's the first time I saw that species, so... so I was just startled!!
Silly!
splash
A-ha-ha. What, you scared of bugs?
splash

Oh, no, Captain Kazuma is real sharp when he's on, though!!!
Aargh! Th-they bit me!!!
I had heard the rumors, but he really is quite an unconventional captain...
kind of lackadaisical.
It's because you're eating while you walk--!!
Swarm
latch
!!!


No, I'm still in my second year.
Sôsei-san... have you been with VIUS long?
Sôsei's fine.


Um... Yukimura-san?

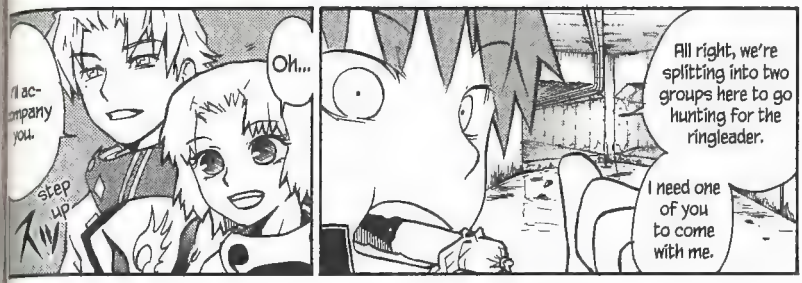
Right...well, for a moment there, I thought you looked just like my sister.
Your... sister?
Yes.

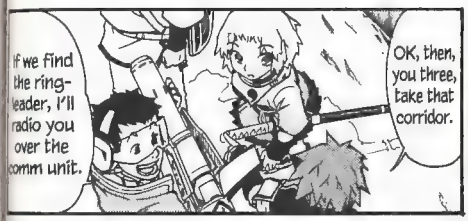
Um... about earlier,
...do I look like someone you know or something?

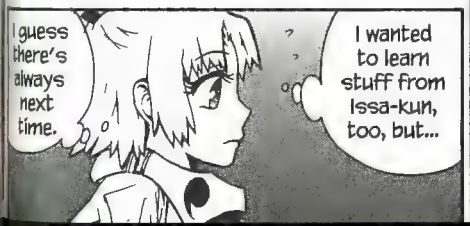
But she's been dead six years.
Oh.
No need to feel bad for me.
Because most everyone you'll meet here will probably have a similar history.
Papa! Mama!
you never forget it, huh...?
So I guess
That's right. In fact...
SWOOP
Watch out...
!
whip
whip

the more time passes,
fizzzz
.....
the more vivid it gets.
boot
Screech

Their numbers are increasing.
FIZZZZ
The ringleader's got to be somewhere a bit farther in.
bom
Yah!
Take that!
bom
Once we exterminate him/her and set up the Shield Core... We can leave the rest for the cleanup crew.
Let's get this over with and go home.
punch
bob
bob


All right, we're splitting into two groups here to go hunting for the ringleader.
I need one of you to come with me.
Oh...
I'll accompany you.
step up


OK, then, you three, take that corridor.
If we find the ringleader, I'll radio you over the comm unit.


I wanted to learn stuff from Issa-kun, too, but...
I guess there's always next time.

I've been wanting to observe the skills of Squad Zero's captain.
Eh?
Oh... all right, I guess.
But you're weird.

swarm
slash
I think she's in a panic.
Wow, Mikami-san's so gung-ho even though it's her first mission.
Quite the opposite of how I was.
slash
Waa—h, waa—h!!
But then... they're... about now...
What, you're kidding !!?
It looks like we've actually gotten farther from the Dracules' lair.
I think we drew the loser's lot.
thwack
slice
bash

So many. There's no end in sight.
SLASH
Fizzz
swish
swish
swish
SLICE
SPLIT
twirl
Yowl
whack
Screech
whap
Poof
clod
voosh
clod
slash
Kazuma-san, I've heard a lot about you.
Let's hurry up and take down the ringleader so we can all go home.
spin-kick
Fizzzzzz
slam
POP
swish
swish
Nothing good, right?
Yowl
THUD

SLASH
I have heard that despite your youthful looks... you've been with VIUS a long time.
SUNDER
And yet... no one remembers exactly when you joined up.
slash
Yow!
Were you already with VIUS six years ago?
clod
I mean, when you're in a different troop, there are folks whose faces you don't even know.
I'm that interesting?
fizz
CHOMP
Missions?
Do you remember any of your missions from back then?
SUNDER
Yow!
clod
Six years ago? ...Why are you asking?

Nah, don't remember a thing from back then.
You were there, weren't you?
lean
swishh

WHAP
...Hey.
You wasted my fish sausage.
Apologize.
roll roll...

That cross-shaped scar... it is you!
A cross on his forehead!!
They headed straight for the house where the boy and girl lived...
Six years ago...there lived in a little village among the hills to the west of here a young twin brother and sister...
...
and killed the girl.
One day, a party of VIUS showed up from the City.

That day...
that girl *you killed*...

was my twin sister!! Issa Kazuma !!!
!!
leap
lunge

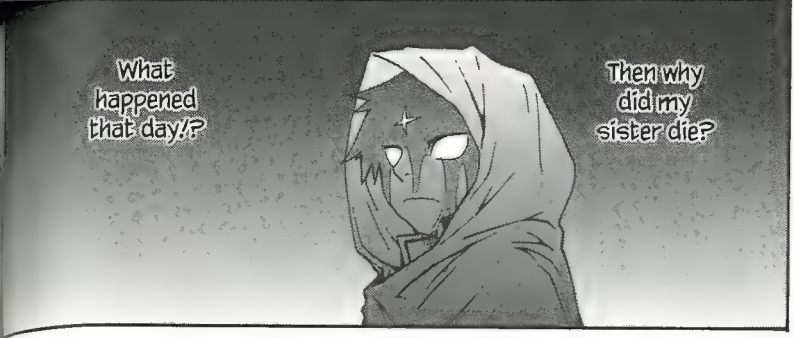
twirl
twirl
twirl
twirl
Ugh.
jab
jab
jab
Die!!
Kazuma!!

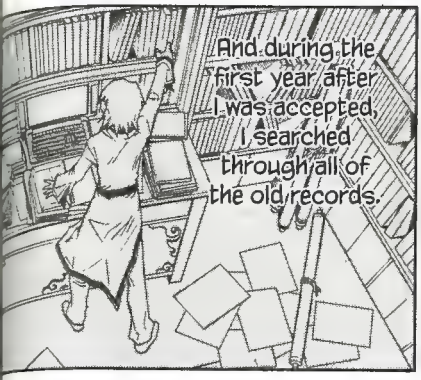
clang
strain
strain
grate
grate
grate
Aah...! So you were the...
I see...
Do you finally remember... what I haven't been able to forget for a single second, these past six years?
strain
strain
Even now... I can vividly recall that day.

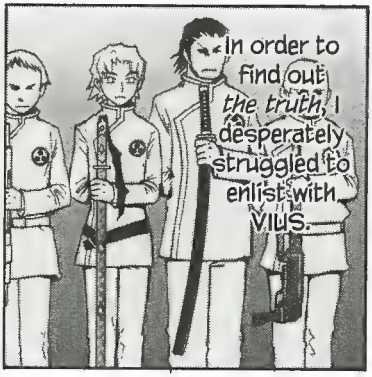
The village I lived in may have been small, but it was tranquil, and thanks to its altitude it had been spared the ravages of the D Virus.
The villagers were kind and gentle even to us orphaned twins.
It may have been a meager life, but we were happy enough.
Until that day!
That day... based on someone's dispatch, the VIUS arrived menacingly...
And, without a moment's hesitation, made a beeline for our house.
Their target *from the outset* was my sister.
Back then, I couldn't even hold them off.
Eventually, you emerged, covered in *blood*...

But why her?
My sister may have been sickly, but she was a super-antibody carrier, just like the VIUS.
And above all, there were *absolutely no* sources of D Virus infection in that village.
In other words, it was *100% impossible* for my sister to have been infected.
grate
grate
Plus, VIUS are not permitted to *draw blood*...
for any reason not related to the D Virus.
strain
strain
strain

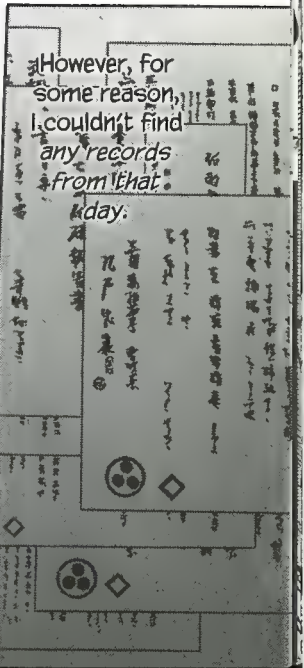
We really wish...
Hey... Sosei, sorry about what happened... it must have been hard for you...
No, really... it's OK...
The day I decided to leave the village...
Sosei! Here, take this!
I ended up believing that one of the villagers had sent the dispatch and stopped being able to trust them.
...What?
Yeah, especially when such a thing... has never happened before in this village...!!!
But... I still can't believe that girl was killed by Dracules...!!
There were no Dracules in that house that day!!
The VIUS had lied to the villagers.
Killed by whom?


What happened that day!?
Then why did my sister die?


And during the first year after I was accepted, I searched through all of the old records.


In order to find out *the truth*, I desperately struggled to enlist with Vius.

But I did finally manage to dig it up...that day's mission report, from among the most classified files...
And you know what it said?


However, for some reason, I couldn't find *any records from that day.*

"In Village XX, a Beast-form Dracule slew one young girl."
"The Dracule was eliminated by Issa Kazuma, one of the squad members who were deployed to the scene."... The End.
tremble
tremble
Even the record had been fabricated...!
In short—that day, you all made a mistake and "misidentified and slaughtered a non-infected civilian"!!
And... the one who directly laid hands on my sister...
was you, Issa Kazuma!!

That's right.
Murderer!!!

!
TEAR
leap
ばっ
SMASH

barrage
CLANG
CLANG
CLASH
SNARL
Don't mock me!! Draw, Kazuma!
SHOUT
Whap
I see... you really are strong!!
You've got a good arm!
Whap!!

lunge
stab
drip
drip

What tremendous force!
...Oww-
No real reason...
Are you trying to atone with that? That's not enough.
Why?
...You took the blow deliberately.
So much so... that I thought had the wrong person at first.
Issa Kazuma, in all respects, you look exactly the same as you did six years ago.
There are other things I want to ask you.

What
are you?
SNAP
blank
It's a secret.
Enough!!
I have one last question for you: why did you all come to the village that day!!
Why did you target my sister!!? Tell me now!!!

smash
Without that reason, my sister can never rest in peace!!
I can't reveal that information.
GRAB
I took an oath.

!!
yank out
Oh, and don't you ever dare to point your blade at a superior officer again.
If the Council finds out, it won't go well for you.
Those three are pretty scary.
This wound is my apology for what I can't discuss.
...G... give,
Give me a break!!!
We're done talking. Let's get back to the mission.
Ooh, that hurts.

charge
!!?
Yuki-mura...!!
Kazuma!!!
I'm not going to make it in time!!
stabbb

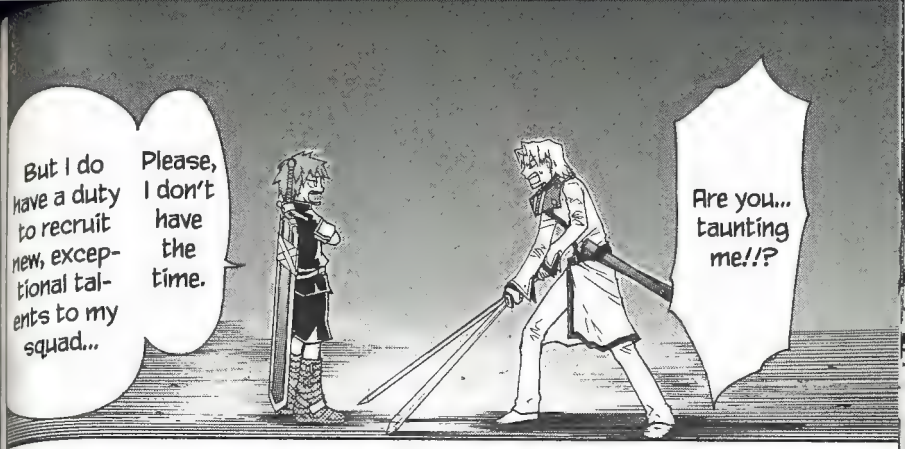
PANT
PANT
PANT
.....
SNORT
SNORT
rassssp

snort
chatter
カチ
chatter
カチ
chatter
カチ
snort
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
No way...!
SCRIBBLE

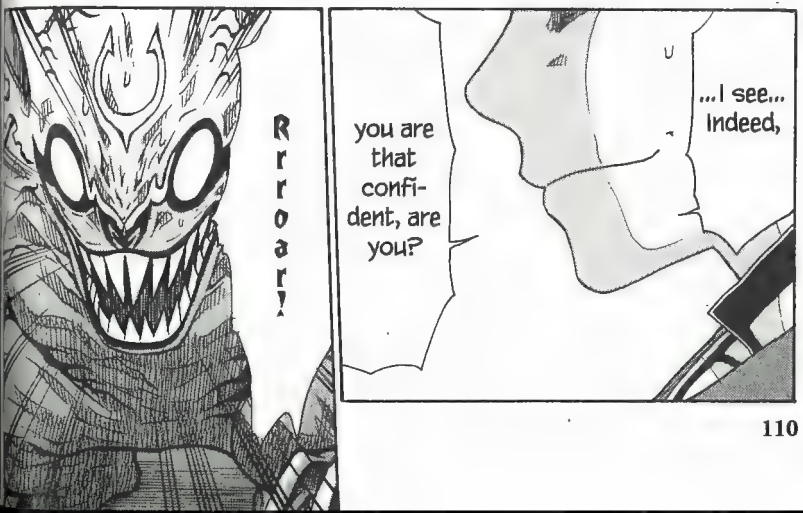
I can't give my life to you!
I've still got unfinished business!
You drew one-handed...

glare
Back off!
Can't you see we're talking here.
Grrr
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
jerk
shake off
My new recruit said something similar, too.
So you became a VIUS in order to find out the truth, huh...
Snarrr
leap back

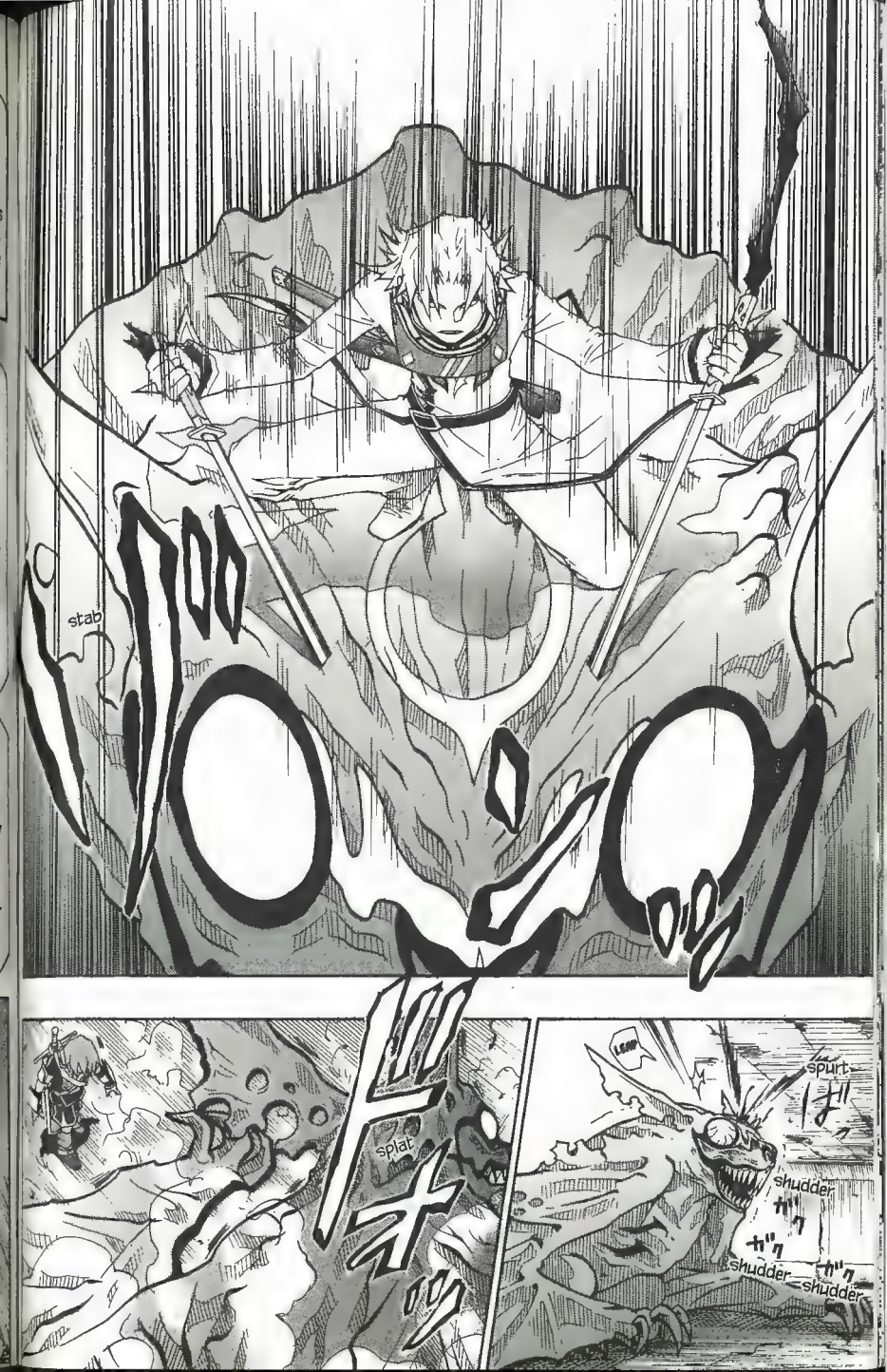
Come join Squad Zero.
Ugh...
Yukimura... if you really want to know the truth that badly,
Are you sure~~ I thought your number one desire was *the truth?*
What are you thinking!? I want to kill you, you know!!!
Wha ...!?
about what happened six years ago.
However... *if* you can score even *one point* on me, I'm willing to talk
Can you really kill me and risk having the truth buried forever?


But I do have a duty to recruit new, exceptional talents to my squad...
Please, I don't have the time.
Are you... taunting me!!?

!!
wouldn't being on Squad Zero give you your best chances?
Besides ...if you want to get me,


Rrroar!
you are that confident, are you?
...I see... Indeed,

spread
leap
smash


stab
splat
spurt
shudder
shudder
shudder

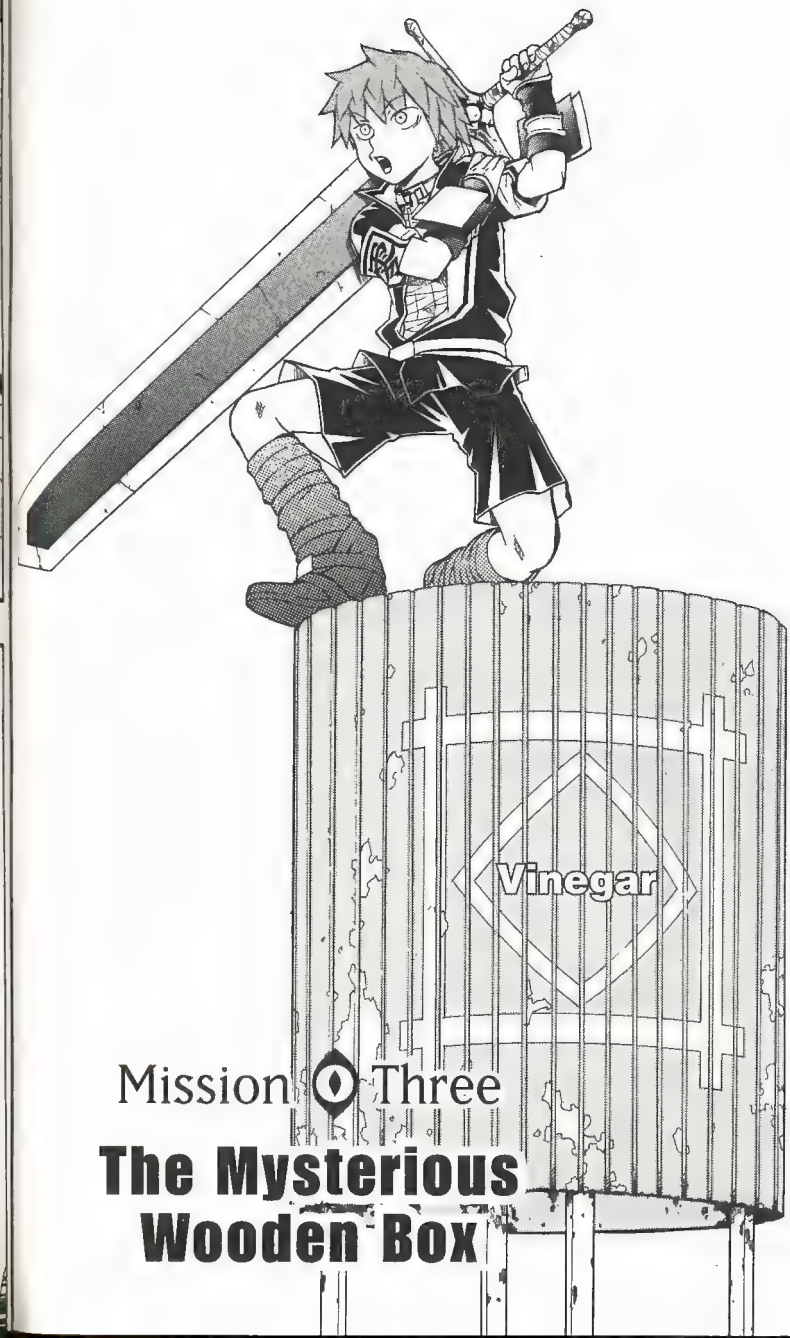
He hit the vital points with a single blow...
...Very well.
I'll go along with your idea.
But you had best be vigilant.
FIZZZZZZ
FLICK
For my greatest desire is still your head.
...If I find out that you've been stringing me along,
And don't think that I'll stop short of that goal.
you'll heartily regret you pulled me in as your severed head hits the ground.
Are you injured!?
...Mmm.
Captain!
Issa-kun!
Shoot! I'm starting to regret it already.
Huh?

DUDE

You're switching to Squad Zero?
Oh, okay, understood! I'll take care of the paperwork, then.
Caution
No, just a *temporary reassignment.* Because it's an entirely different troop, I don't know if it'll even be a good fit, so...
Hasn't finished filling its roster yet.
It's all right.
But are you sure? I think you know, but Squad Zero...

bang
Issa Kazuma!!
Darn it!
If you can score even one point on me, I'm willing to tell you the truth.
I know, it's just sweet talk. He's not planning to talk, ever.
For there is no truth.
There was only merciless slaughter.
Yet...he foolishly put me into his own squad.
clack...
belt
He's quite self-assured, but...
that confidence will be his undoing!!
RUSTLE...

Huri
Spear
flail...
I will not stay my hand the next time!
……



Mission Three
The Mysterious Wooden Box

Squad Zero
Ready Room
rattle...
...
YOU'RE LATE!!!
slam

Oh no...I-I'm so sorry! I thought you were the captain. He was supposed to meet me here first thing to help clean up this room, but he hasn't shown up...
and, uh...
S... Sôsei-san?
Oh!
Um, good morning.
ペコッ bow
...Morning.
Actually, I've been temporarily reassigned here, so I'm going to be working alongside you starting today.
Thanks.
What!? You, Sôsei-san?
You're joining Squad Zero!? us?
So how can I help you today?

step
step
step
Good morning!
Hyûga-san!
Oh, right.
Uh, it's just temporary.
.....
Danger
!
Squad Zero folks!!
Huh, the city?
An investigation...?
But that's not our job.
A message?
I came to deliver today's mission details and a message from Captain Kazuma.
Today, we're going to have Squad Zero carry out an investigation in the city...
and Kazuma-san wanted you to know that he's already left for the location.
Something about a tip about black market goods being smuggled into the city, with one of the items identified as...a "Dragon Eye"...I think...?
Yeah, I thought so, too... but when he heard the details, Captain Kazuma accepted the mission right away.

Dragon... Eye?!
twitch
Well, just think of today as a breather.
I kind of questioned whether it was really necessary to deploy a whole squad too, but...
Well, it might still be a prank.
A Dragon Eye, huh... I've heard of it, although I thought it was an urban legend.
Is it supposed to be a secret...?
Maybe I shouldn't say anything.
and just recently on Issa-kun's forehead...
Once when I was a child...
Neither of them... know anything about Dragon Eyes.
Even though I've seen the real thing twice now.

Mikuni City
District Three, First Avenue
District Three
First Avenu
SLURP SLURP SLURP SLURP
Toss
This is delicious, this mabo egg-plant!!!
Yum!!!
exhale

I especially like that it's a bit too red!!!!
Cold draft 15 Kaika
Shochu 13 Kaika
Mugicha (Barley tea) 1 Kaika
It's hoi-kourou.
There ain't no eggplant in it.
.....
So this...
gulp...
ゴ"
?!
is the fabled... Dragon Eye, huh.
Did you bring the goods?
Yeah. This is it.
CLUNK
Fool!! Lower your voice!
whisper whisper
chomp
モ"ク
モ"ク
chomp
Hey, so where's my money...
Mister, this is so good,
JERK
let's share it with the other patrons, too, eh!! Seriously, on my tab!!!

ta-daa
Here ya go!!!
slap
That's generous of you, bro.
All right!
huri
Th... thanks.
Jab
whisper
Just say thanks and take it.
The guy behind me's footing the tab! Eat your hearts out!
slurp
chomp
So... back to busi-ness.
Yeah, those don't taste good, either!!!
Just think of it as an earthy kanpô stew and you'll be able to eat it.
Fine. Then leave my estab-lishment.
It stinks, it's killer spicy, and it downright tastes horrible, darn it!!!
steam
steam

trundle
trundle
trundle
Wow, it's been a while since I've been down in the city.
Hey, passengers, you lot students?
You're so young-lookin'.
Uh, no... no we're not.
Enforcement Corps
Intelligence Corps
Troop Misora
Troop Chihiro
Squad Zero
Squad One
Squad Two
Squad Three
Squad Four
Squad Five
Communication Division
Collection Division
Investigations are normally the purview of the intelligence corps. Just as Dracule extermination is our specialty.
Troop Misora, to which Squad Zero is attached, especially represents the front-line forces, so this is highly irregular, at the very least.
Squad Zero sure is completely being treated as errand-runners...
But hmm... short-staffed or not,
E... errand runners!?

Sôsei-san, you said you're normally...
with Squad Five of Troop Chihiro.
ガラ trundle
ガラ trundle
ガラ trundle
Those of you in Troop Misora specialize in warfare *outside city limits*...
and Troop Chihiro is the guard force that protects citizens within the city.
We cover all ten districts of Mikuni, so we're quite busy.
ガラ trundle
It may be less flashy than Troop Misora, but it's a challenging job because we have to directly defend civilians.
ガラ trundle
ガラ trundle
Dracules turn up in the streets of Mikuni?
Well... there are a variety of cases. The threat of the D Virus is ever present.
If Troop Misora is the one that *actively battles* them, Troop Chihiro is the one who *defends* the city *from* them.
But... I thought that as a VIUS city, Mikuni
was solidly constructed to withstand D Virus infiltration from the outside?

...
Um... you've been with VIUS more than a year, right, Sôsei-san?
Today's investigation may help reveal some of how they get through.
District Four
That's true...but there are always a few that slip in under the radar.
when I volunteered to be a helper the other day, I asked my Squad Five captain...
Well... actually, I didn't find this out until recently, either, but...
!
Do you know...what happened to the previous Squad Zero?
Until the old Squad Zero was *disbanded*...
Apparently, my captain *used to be* a member of Squad Zero.

Dis-band-ed!?
...Why?
It seems that lack of trust in their captain was the primary reason...
I don't know all the details, but...
Lack of trust...? In Issa-kun? No way...
A squad is built upon trust. It can only function through trust.
The disband-ing of a squad is excep-tional.
Leila, you probably ought to start thoroughly assessing those who are going to be your superiors.

What... do you mean?
Wh-Why do you say that...?
I just wonder if Issa Kazuma is a trustworthy individual, that's all.
We're almost there, but should you young folk really be wandering about this time of day?
Please keep your eyes on the road!
Oh, don't tell me, are you on a date?
Nice—I'm so envious—
Hey!!
You—you did this on purpose!!
Smart smart
Don't get mad—all I did was try to share the wealth of flavor.
Do not fight in my establishment.
Hey, you!! Who and what are you!!!
But he's just a kid.
Hey... don't tell me he's after the goods?

Who, me?
I'm just a civilian patron
who's actually an undercover VIUS.
Whaaaat ~~~!!?
Huh—
See, he said he's just a patron...
V... VIUS!!?
So.
hoist
Oh!
You said there's a Dragon Eye inside this thing?
Where did you get it?

Crap... there's been a leak!! This is bad!
clatter
Th...this brat is a VIUS!!?
I hereby detain you all on suspicion of illegal transport of D Virus contaminants under the VIUS code!
You have no right to remain silent~ tee hee hee.
!?
catch
!
leap
hurl
Waaah!

!
voosh
clamp
A... a spell note of binding!!?

!
shudder
This is it—
grab
Hey you!
We gotta beat it, too!
Fool!
dash
ram
Ugh!
Chase him! We want the box!!!
Issa-kun!?
Leila! Yukimura!

Shoot, it was that guy just now! Let's go, Leila!!
R... roger!
leap
S... sure!
toss
Hey, mister, lend me a knife, will ya!!
constrict
Aaaaargh!
constric
SNAG
Fizzz
How did someone who's not VIUS get ahold of something like this!?
This...is a high master's spell note!
snap

ZWISH
ZWISH
Unh...
ugh...
PANT
PANT
PANT
I...I think I'm safe now...
land
Waaah!!
tap
Hand that box over nice and easy, okay?
We are VIUS.

You'll be killed? By whom?
I...if I do, they'll kill me!
P...please, let me go!! I can't hand this over to VIUS!!
Haven't opened it? You're a black market smuggler, how could you not confirm the contents?
I...I don't know. I haven't opened it.
Hey, is there really a Dragon Eye in there?
!
Why didn't you?
That's... because... *they* told me not to open the box until the time of transaction...
They said it was a Dragon Eye, but...I don't know for sure... I haven't looked inside.
I...I was simply asked to sell the box's contents.

I doubt there are that many of them rolling around this world.
Issa-kun already has the real thing.
Sôsei-san... I suspect the contents are something else.
Yes, I think so too. It's all too fishy.
Huh?
In which case, this is not good.
In short... there's a chance it's a D Virus.
That he was told not to open it until the transaction... means it's something troublesome if and when opened.
What...!?
This may be a deliberate attack on Mikuni.
And if so... as soon as it's unleashed in the streets, the city will be in a massive panic.

Please. If you cooperate with us, the charges will be lessened.
What!?
Hey! We're confiscating that box. You're coming down with us to HQ.
rummage
...
Unnh
...
shield
!
Hey!

!?
vooosh
wrap
Sôsei-san!
Leila, chase him!!
wrap
dash
Wha!?

!
R... right!!
Don't let him open that box!!
dash
Shoot... this is no ordinary black market smuggling case!!
There aren't that many even among the VIUS that can create a spell note of this caliber...
A spell note of binding, huh! Darn it, it's powerful!
constrict
constrict
strain
Ugh... Who in the world is behind this?

!
Yukimuraaaaa!!
W...
wait a..!

snap
The guy has some powerful spell notes in his possession! Be careful!!
!
Fizzz

Hey, no personal feelings today, all right?
Leila's chasing him! They went that way!
....
Of course not.
PANT
PANT
PANT
!
I...if I hand this over, my life will be forfeit.
P... please let me go!

If it really is virus contaminants... This is a city space. It will be a horrible disaster.
Do you even know what the contents are?
What!?
Besides... if that's true, you'll be the first to get infected.
.....
And after that...
they start killing people indiscriminately, not even able to differentiate their loved ones... they become slaughtering monsters.
And when civilians with *weak antibodies* become infected... they transform into Dracules within a minute.

So please hand me that box.
I...am a VIUS, so if you become infected, I have to take you down.
shudder...
That's when I was introduced to this job, because it promised good returns...and I just...
I...if I had known I'd be spreading the D Virus... I never intended...
I...I...My business wasn't doing well... and I got into a bind for money...
A...all right, I'll help...
hold out
So come with me... and give me that box.
If you cooperate with VIUS HQ, they can offer you protection.
We've got to arrest those who hired you.

!
slash
Wh... who!?
dash
Waah!
Where in the world did that come from...?
N...no, not me!
Oh, good!
Don't worry, it didn't hit anything vital.

splinter
splinter
splinter
Th...the box is coming apart!
Huh?
Move back!!!
reach
!!
I...if I remember correctly, these...
are spherical confinement seal spell notes
meant to seal in Dracules...!
crumble

Leila—!!!
Give that to me!!!
バレ?
snatch
Issa-kun!
TEAR

It's unraveling!!
flash
slide

sizzzzle...
So we're caught in the midst...
of D Virus contaminants, huh.

I see...because it was wrapped with powerful spell notes, it was able to slip through the customs checkpoint!!
It's huge!
A Dracule!!?
BLINK
Leila! Go get him somewhere safe! He's a valuable witness in our criminal investigation!
R... roger!
Roger!
ASAP!!
And then contact HQ! Have them deploy Troop Chihiro!

glare
ギョロ
rear...
Beast-form, huh.
tap
Level 4 from the looks of it, no?
Unlike Squad Zero's usual stomping grounds, this is inside City walls.
The safety of the populace is our top priority!
Leila's gone for reinforcements!
With the two of us, we should be able to contain the situation! Let's squeeze him in from both sides!

This could get ugly.
I've... seen him before...
Hey!
...Who are you?
Where... am I?
!
It speaks!
It has intelligence— so it's not Level 4!?

launch
!
ズド
sla-am

LEER
!
CLAMP
grind...!
!!
whip
Fast...!!
launch
Oh!

wham
thwack
leap
strain
strain
ugh...
ooze
brake

Could this place be...Mikuni!?
Which means...
Don't tell me you're VIUS?
Hmm... you're not getting infected.
?
I'm in Mikuni!!
Splendid!! Bwa-ha-ha-ha!
To have infiltrated a VIUS city is a first even for me!!
Intriguing!!! Cackle cackle cackle!
Yukimura! This guy's a Bird Monster-Form Dracule that normally lives in the northern mountains,
a Level 2 Darkness-hued Bird!!!

Sheesh, whoever it was sure brought us a nasty surprise.
Yeah...this is the very first incident since Mikuni was founded.
I've never heard of a Level 2 Dracule infiltrating Mikuni City!
...A Level 2!?
glint...
:D
You better be strong.
So... you two wanna play?
It'll probably take about five minutes for them to be deployed. Don't let him out of this canal for at least that long!
I know!
clatter
clatter
In any case, we just need to stall him until reinforcements arrive.
shudder...

streak
!!
swerve
Come!
woosh
Ugh!
You...!
heft

clod
thud
He's swifter than he looks! Be careful!
Very well!

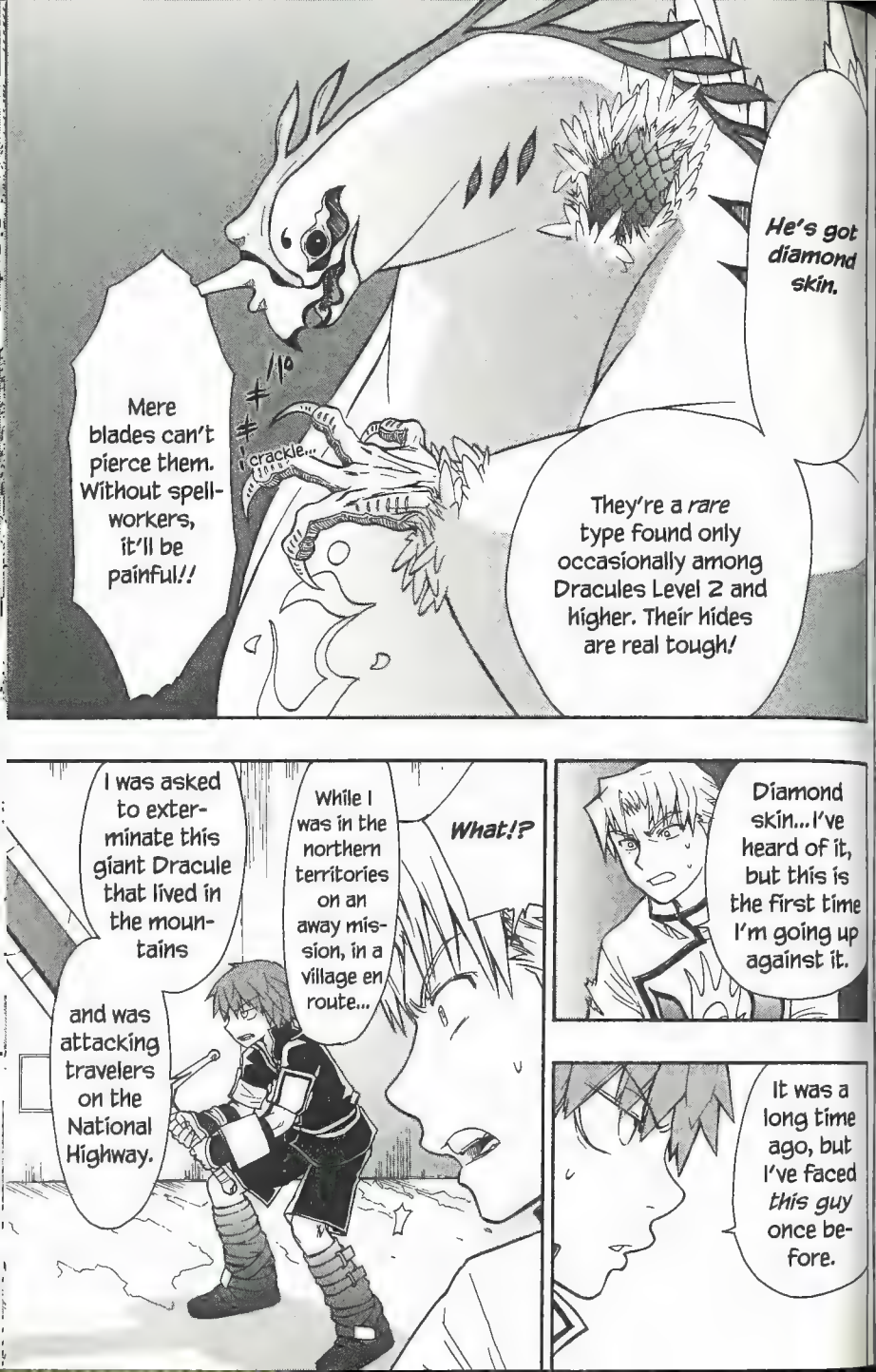
hurl
bound
thock
dash
PUMP
leap

waft
tap
tap
stab
!

Got-cha!
thwack
HACK
What's the matter, what's the matter!?

slam
!!
Issa Special—!!!

!?
grind
screech
sneer
ニヤ
So you're the boss, eh?
leap back
The Issa Special didn't work!!!
...
I remember now... blades don't work on him!


He's got diamond skin.
They're a *rare* type found only occasionally among Dracules Level 2 and higher. Their hides are real tough!
crackle...
Mere blades can't pierce them. Without spell-workers, it'll be painful!!
Diamond skin...I've heard of it, but this is the first time I'm going up against it.
It was a long time ago, but I've faced *this guy* once before.
What!?
While I was in the northern territories on an away mission, in a village en route...
I was asked to exterminate this giant Dracule that lived in the mountains
and was attacking travelers on the National Highway.

Huh?
H... how!?
I convinced him to go home to the mountains.
So what happened?
And here inside the city, I can't use this thing...
D... don't tell me you've forgotten!!?
Umm ~~
That's the thing~~ I know we negotiated something, but...
Back in the northern mountains where I live, I could only find boring folks!!
Gwa-ha-ha-ha-ha!!! Nice! This is fun, human!!!

Entertain me more, VIUS!!
I've wanted to have a battle like this for a long time!!!
アハハ a-ha ha
キャッキャッ whee whee
Children!!?
JERK
This one... He's different from all the previous ones...
Shoot!
crouch...
グッ
Let's see... what about this?

blast
十九式
slash
slash
slash
Ugh!
swing
bound

whoosh
whoosh
I missed some!!
Huh—
Birds?
!!?
stab
stab
stab
stab
leap

Yukimura!!
Ugh!
It takes a lot more than this to take me down!
I swear on my pride as a VIUS that I will not let anyone get infected within Mikuni City!!
yank
Y...
...
yup.
?
...Are you all right!?
They're safe! I managed to shield them!
I meant you!
You're going to hold the fort alone!?
And don't let any other civvies come near!!
...Yukimura! Take the kids and lead them far away from here!!

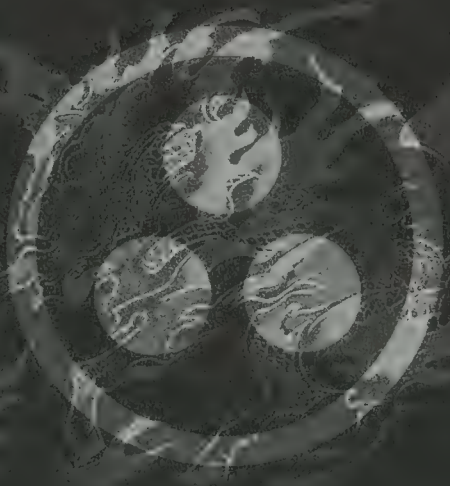
!
Fine.
Just don't mess up, all right?
Just go!!!
Hey, I'm your playmate! Forget the other guy!
dash
All
I want you to go all out!!
You're pretty impressive, but it's not gratifying enough for me.
crack
crack
Are you really going all out?
hey...
Hmm-hmm-

Don't be unreasonable.
constrict
constrict
so my body feels heavy...and I can't even unveil the Eye.
The Anti-Dracule Shield erected across all of Mikuni City is augmenting the strength of the fetters around my body...
constrict
constrict
Darn it, where are the reinforcements!?
The shield ought to be affecting him too, but...
He's acting all hale and hearty.
Sheesh- this is so restrictive...
constrict
constrict

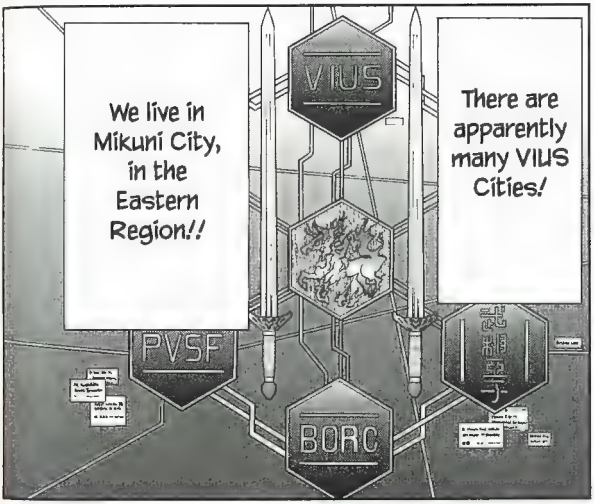
If you can't give your all...
I'll pull it out of you.
Captain... we're ready to go. Shall we attack?
whoooooosh
No...not yet.
whoooooosh
Keep everyone on standby, for now.
Dragon Eye 1 END

Thanks:
Yuzuka Masashige
Bibii
Ueda Satomi
Uemura Erika

Extras

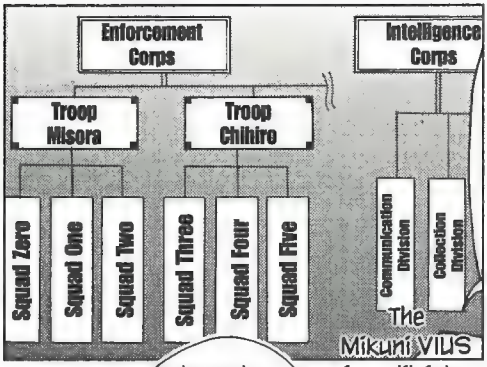


EXTRA PAGES OF DRAGON EYE



Because the first volume ended up having a great number of empty pages, the author hastily prepared these bonus pages, entrusting everything to Issa...

The city-protecting, Dracule-fighting VIUS are the populace's heroes!
But they often go around incog-nito when out in public!



The Mikuni VIUS is split into departments such as the Enforce-ment Corps and the Intelligence Corps!

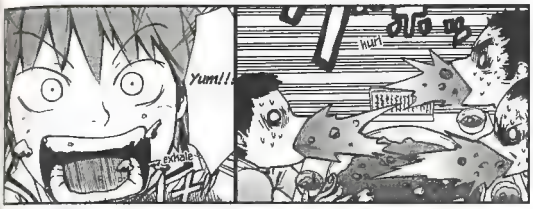
Those who directly battle the Dracules are we of the Enforcement Corps! There are also plenty of warriors who work at HQ.

It's said civilians are not permitted to enter the VIUS HQ Center-Hall that is also the symbol of Mikuni!
There's a house at the top of it, but I wonder who lives there.

Squad Zero's ready room is in pretty hideous condition!
clutter
There isn't even an air conditioner! And what are we supposed to do in the winter!? Give us a heater!!
There's nothing on the floor.
Where does it go potty!?
There's a dog!?
There are only three of us, so it seems like a waste—
Leila's all gung-ho to do a big cleaning, but...
Oh no...I-I'm sorry! I thou you were t captain. He supposed meet me h first thing help clean this room, he hasn't sh up...
They're actually really short-staffed!
There are only three of us, so we get helpers.
I heard we're the only squad like that.
Nope! They were yummy.
Issa found some fish sausages, but he didn't get sick from them!

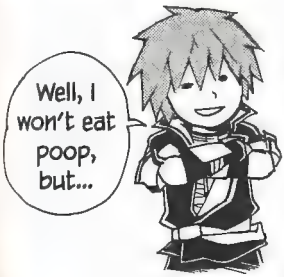
I sleep here at HQ.
I heard there are some who mobilize from elsewhere.
Leila changes clothes. Full-time VIUS get free room and board.
All right!
The Mikuni seal on the collar is proof of VIUS hood!
Mikuni's trio of wise Elders. Supposedly very scary.
What were you thinking, eh!?
They are our superiors. Tread carefully!
Our sincere apologies!!
Crank
Ow!
The hard-working Squad One Captain seems to hold several other posts as well, but...
he's often apologizing for me.

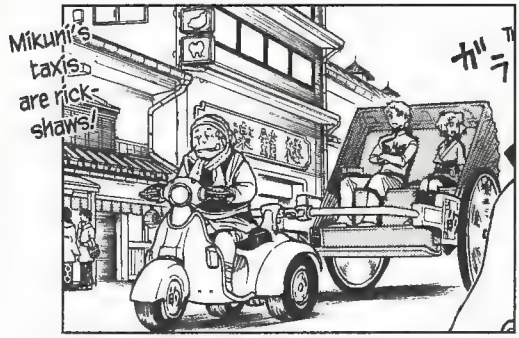
Mikuni City



▲So awful-tasting even adult men will spit it up! Yet Issa seems completely unaffected!

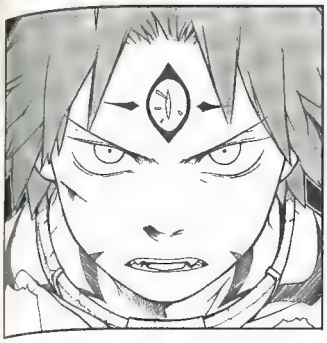
At one of the restaurants on Mikuni's lichome, a red hoikourou is served!
Cold draft 15 Kaku
Shochu 13 Kaku
Mugicha (Barley Tea) 1 Kaku





▲There don't appear to be any automobiles.

An Anti-Dracule Shield is erected around Mikuni to prevent Dracule infiltration, but it apparently still allows rain through. ▶



Issa Kazuma

Issa's broadsword. The word "Diamond" at the hilt means its durability is its only merit?

His boots might look heavy at first glance, but they're actually made of light cloth. However, he could be concealing steel plates within them.

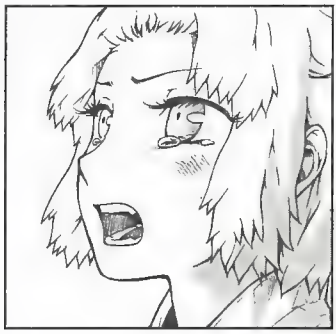
Spell words appear on the surface every time he unveils the Eye.

Issa's uniform. Because of his choker, he keeps his jacket open at the top.

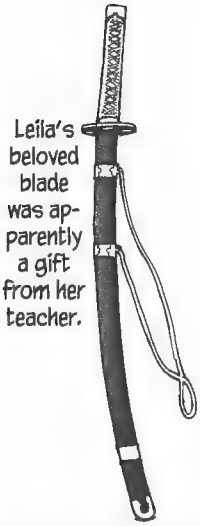
Character Bios, starting with me.

Issa Kazuma's data

- Squad Zero captain
- Possesses a Dragon Eye on his forehead
- Wields the broadsword Diamond Sacred Steel
- Gets reprimanded a lot
- Apparently widely disliked
- Whole body is magically fettered
- Therefore poor at combat within the city
- Apparently has an older sister
- Seems to have been with VIUS a long time, but...



Leila Mikami

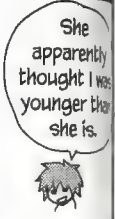


Leila's beloved blade was apparently a gift from her teacher.

Her foot attire consists of tabi and zôri sandals. Her leg guards are made of cloth, but seem like they might hide something.

Leila's mask.

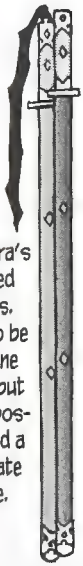
Leila's uniform has loose sleeves for easy movement.



Leila Mikami's data

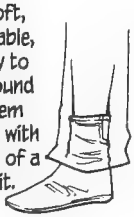
- Newly inducted VIUS member. May have taken top score on the enlistment exam.
- Assigned to Squad Zero via Issa's special request
- Although a newcomer, overflowing with knowledge through studying. However, there are plenty of things that one can only learn from actual field experience.
- Both parents killed by Dracules when she was very young
- Rescued back then by a man who possessed a Dragon Eye. It seems to be the same Dragon Eye that Issa has, but...
- Recently exerting herself at cleaning

Sôsei Yukimura



Yukimura's beloved blades. Used to be only one blade, but he supposedly had a duplicate made.

Yukimura's mask.

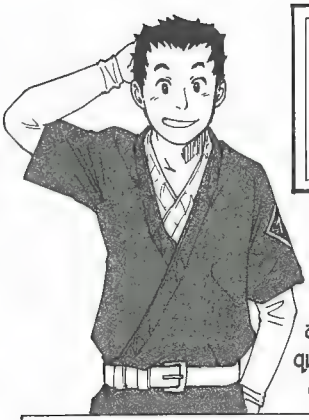


Boot type. Soft, comfortable, and easy to move around in, an item brimming with the sense of a snug fit.

The VIUS symbol is emblazoned on the chest.

Sôsei Yukimura's data

- Formerly a member of Squad Five
- After Issa's life
- Lost his twin sister six years ago. Her killer was Issa?
- Seems very serious and sober, but...
- In his second year as VIUS.
- Author often forgets (to draw) his mole...
- Which his assistants then draw in.
- The mark on his chest is evidence of distinguished scholarship?



Hyûga's data

- Assigned to Intelligence Corps
- Not good at battle
- Idolizes Issa, perhaps because his first mission was with Issa's squad
- But has been forgotten by the object of his adulation

Sakuraba's data

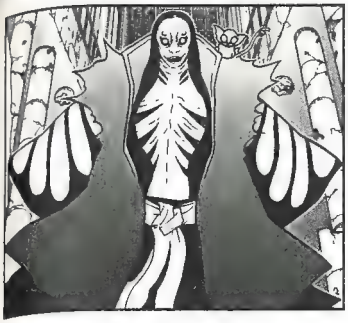
- Squad One captain
- Wears well-ventilating sweats
- Lost an arm long ago
- Rough sketch resembled author's mother

Dog's data

- Wasn't sure if important enough to include...
- Was apparently found by Issa
- Hardly moves, but one can confirm aliveness through its harsh breathing
- Either way, currently inhabits Squad Zero's ready room

Hibiki's data

- Apparently quite young
- Doesn't seem to mind fighting, but...
- Carries around heavy-seeming weapons
- Further details unknown



The humanoid Dracule that ambushed the VIUS candidates in the first story.

Level 3 Humanoid

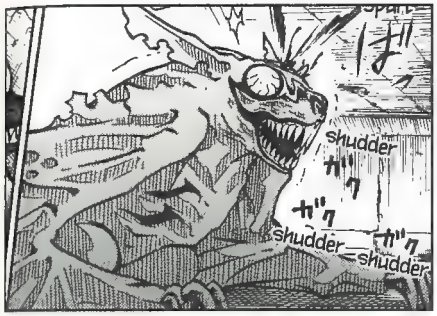
Dracules

Extermination method

Was sundered in two with a single swing of Issa's blade, post-Dragon Eye unveiling! However, low enough level that several veteran warriors working in concert can take down. Was Issa's unveiling of the Dragon Eye a performance for Leila's benefit!?

Traits

Attacks using his long talons. Acts humanlike as well, such as by using trick blades. Seems to be good at psychological warfare.



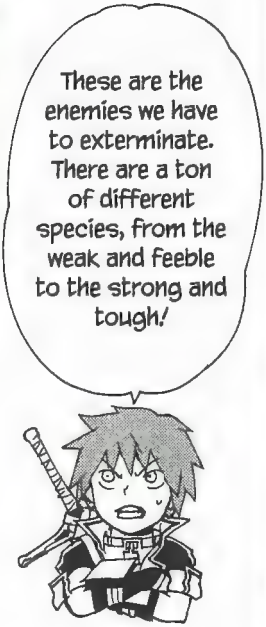
Level 4 Beast-form

Extermination method

Yukimura strikes his vital point with a single swing of his twin blades!

Traits

Looks like a mutant bat or some such. Was lairing in the underground area of the old city. An accomplished VIUS can easily take one down.


These are the enemies we have to exterminate. There are a ton of different species, from the weak and feeble to the strong and tough!

Traits

Level 2 Beast-form. Large-bodied but swift. Attacks consist mainly of punches. Possesses diamond skin.

At Level 2, there is somewhat high intellect and the ability to master human speech.

Kaligera

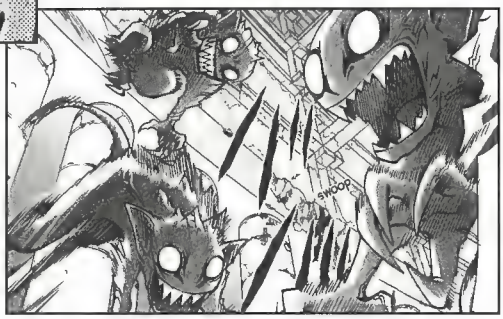
Extermination method

If the location is outside, and there is only one, a single squad can probably manage to take him down, but...the problem is that it is a street battle and blades are ineffective against him...

Individual characteristics start being distinguishable among different species, and so each is given a separate name. "Kaligera" is a species that lives solely in the northern mountains.

Mini Dracules—regarded as small fry. Low intellect and thus incapable of human speech. Even a newly inducted VIUS can easily take one down.

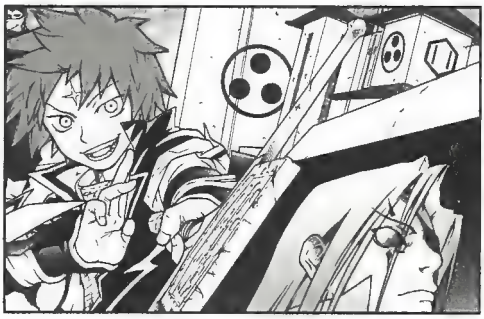
Level 5 Beast-form



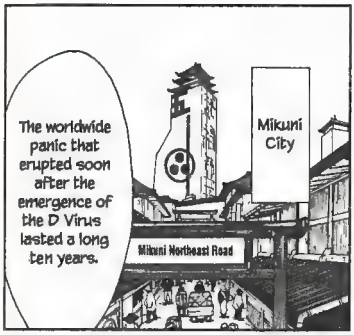
TRANSLATION NOTES

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural difference is used.

Mikuni crest, page 4



Consisting of three solid circles arranged in upright triangle fashion within a ring, the crest for the fictional Mikuni City makes its first appearance on this page, on the side of a building. It can also be seen on the side of the central VIUS tower, on the front or back of VIUS uniforms, and on various official documents.

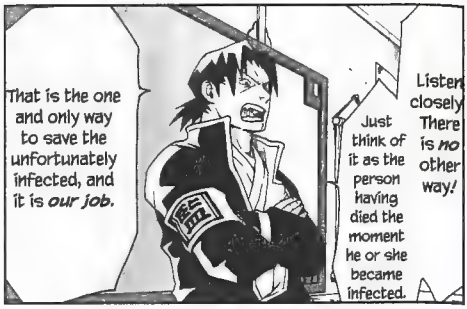

The worldwide panic that erupted soon after the emergence of the D Virus lasted a long ten years.
Mikuni City
Mikuni Northeast Road

VIUS, page 4

The term VIUS appears in two forms throughout this manga. When it refers to the warrior heroes who carry antibodies against the D Virus, it is spelled with *kanji* that literally mean "anti-evil samurai." Samurai were the warrior lords of pre-industrial Japan that have been immortalized in art, literature, and film. When the term refers to the civil-military organization to which the warriors belong, *kanji* that phonetically spell out VIUS is used. Interestingly, its superscript literally translates to "Epidemic-Preventing City System." VIUS may be an acronym, and though we don't have the author's official explanation of it, a good guess might be "Versus Infection Urban System."

Armband, page 9

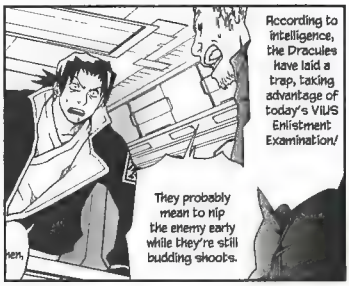
At the VIUS enlistment exam, superintendent Sakuraba wears an armband with the *kanji* for "inspector." Issa, who initially poses as one of the candidates, later reveals his own proctor's armband on page 34.


That is the one and only way to save the unfortunately infected, and it is *our job.*
Just think of it as the person having died the moment he or she became infected.
Listen closely. There is *no* other way!

Enlistment candidate armbands, various pages

Each of the VIUS hopefuls wear an armband embossed with their registration number. The two young men on the left side of panel one on page 14 wear 12 and 10, respectively. In panel 3, the man is wearing the number 30. On page 15, panel 5, Leila wears 41, and the man on page 18, panel 3, wears 5.

Troop designation symbols, various pages


According to intelligence, the Dracules have laid a trap, taking advantage of today's VIUS Enlistment Examination!
They probably mean to nip the enemy early while they're still budding shoots.

Most VIUS members wear their troop designations somewhere on their uniforms, and equipment and objects sometimes bear stamps as well. For example, Squad One captain Sakuraba has "one" embossed on the left sleeve of his jacket. Hyûga wears "Comm," short for "Communications," on his left sleeve and carries a weapon stamped "Eng," short for "Engineering." Hibiki wears an older character that stands for "six" on the front of his mask, Issa wears "zero" on his right sleeve, and Squad Five captain Kiura and his squad members wear veils with the old form of "five" on them.

is where they shuffle away the trouble-makers!?
Were my scores that bad...!??
Woo-hoo, found some fish sausages! Nice!!
D...Don't tell me this...

Fish sausages, page 67

Immensely popular in Japan and to a certain extent in other East Asian countries, these sausages are the fish analogue to the cocktail frank. They are made of minced and processed fish meat that is pressed into and encased in bright-colored cylindrical skins (usually orange). Now formulated in a variety of flavors, including some bizarre ones such as strawberry milk, people of all ages enjoy them as either snacks or part of a meal.

Non-pictograph symbol, page 69

Sôsei wears the symbol of a distinguished graduate on the front of his uniform.

Mabo eggplant, page 123

Here, Issa is referring to a variant of the popular Szechuan dish *Má pó dofu*, known as *mabo tofu* or *mabo dofu* in Japanese. Normally it's made with cubed tofu and ground meat (usually pork) in an extremely spicy Szechuan peppercorn sauce; in this case, cubed eggplant would either be added to or substituted for the tofu.

Hoikourou, page 124

Hoikourou or *hoikoro* is another Szechuan dish that's popular in Japan. Also spelled *huíguôrou*, it is commonly known in English as "Twice-Cooked Pork," because pork rib steak chunks are first boiled with ginger and salt, then sliced thinly and stir-fried in a wok with vegetables, most often cabbage and peppers. The sauce is usually made with chili peppers and sweet bean paste.

PREVIEW OF VOLUME 2 OF *DRAGON EYE*

We are pleased to present to you a preview from the next volume of *Dragon Eye.* Volume 2 will be available in English on September 25, 2007, but for now, you'll have to make do with Japanese!

Secret Weapon

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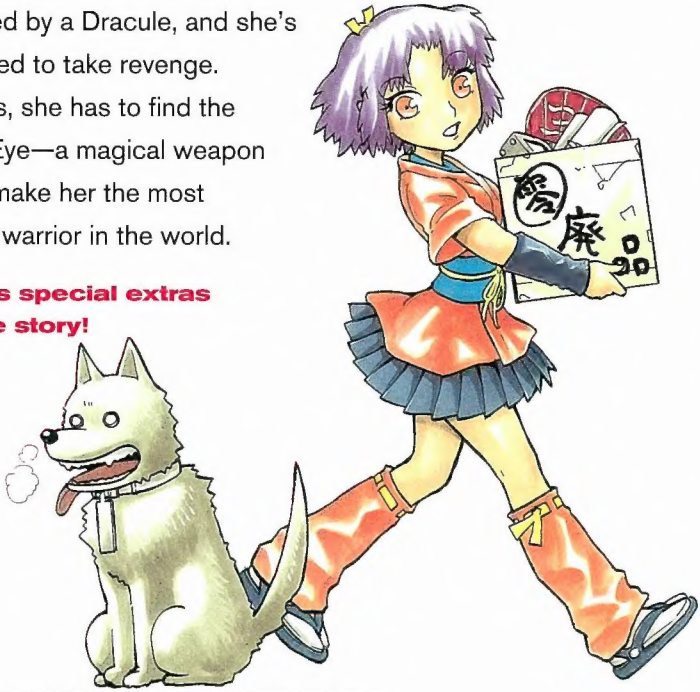
Ten years ago, a terrible virus swept the globe. It turned its victims into bloodthirsty monsters called Dracules, and the only cure is death. Now, with humankind on the brink of extinction, only the elite warriors of the VIUS squad stand between chaos and civilization. New recruit Leila Mikami is one of the squad's most promising young warriors, but she has another agenda: Her parents were killed by a Dracule, and she's determined to take revenge. To do this, she has to find the Dragon Eye—a magical weapon that will make her the most powerful warrior in the world.

Includes special extras after the story!



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